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portation. Connections made at Mackinaw with Chicago boats. The through steamer will stop at Detroit and Cleveland.

The Local Committee may later have some attractive side trips to announce.

Further details as to itinerary, routes, prices and accommodations will appear in the March and May numbers of the Bulletin.

F. W. FAXON,

Chairman

CORRESPONDENCE

"Picture bulletins from another point of view"

To the editor of the A. L. A. Bulletin:

Under this title, Mr J. C. Dana in the *Wisconsin library bulletin* for September-October mentions several strong objections to the picture bulletin, among them, that the making of the bulletin is "relatively to other things which are waiting to be done, a waste of time." This letter aims, not to put itself on either side of the argument as to the value of picture bulletins, nor to suggest a cure-all for the evils of too much time and too little skill spent in the making of them, but to call general attention to a possible source of supply for such libraries as have faith in their efficacy. I refer to the collections in library schools. Since this letter does not presume to be more than a suggestion, the writer has not collected statistics from the various schools, but being familiar with the collection in the New York State Library School, will point her moral with reference to conditions as they exist there, being reasonably sure that conditions elsewhere are the same, or can be made so in essential particulars. Most schools have the making of bulletins as a part of their course. It is reasonable to suppose that with the oversight exercised the results are at least as commendable as the talent of the average library staff is likely to produce. In the school which serves as illustration the requirements from each student have been: One bulletin on a practical subject, a brief but well-tested reading list, care and good taste in the carrying out of the plan. The standard of judgment has been sufficiently high to ensure satisfactory products. The re-

sult is a large collection of attractive bulletins suitable for use in a library. This is merely so much good material going to waste unless the collection is made accessible to libraries. If this be done, to the library comes the comparatively slight expense of transportation, to the school the necessity of some kind of arrangement which would probably be considered necessary under any circumstances. In return, the library which believes in bulletins would be spared the torments which Mr Dana so feelingly describes, and its time and money would be free for the other things that wait to be done. One might enlarge also on the added incentive to the library school students of a practical goal. The opponents of bulletins could here advance the counter-argument that library school students could devote their well-filled time to better objects than the making of bulletins, but the chances are that for some time to come a little bulletin-making will be a part of the library school course, and we are here concerned merely with circumstances now existing.

This emphasis on "might" and "would" is not to convey the impression that nothing of the sort has been done in the past. The annual report of Pratt Institute Free Library for 1907 mentions the loaning of bulletins, and at the New York State Library School from the first bulletins have been loaned to libraries willing to pay the cost of transportation, and a classified list, stating dimensions, of all that are suitable has been prepared for the use of borrowers. While their availability has never been advertised, the charging cards indicate that 122 bulletins have been loaned—several very frequently; and that a lack of knowledge of the opportunity is responsible for the fact that the use has been no greater is indicated by the lively demand there has been, since the appearance of Miss Rathbone's article "Picture bulletins practically applied" in the *Library Journal* for October, 1907, not only for the bulletins there mentioned, but for others as well.

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